

## **II. Amendment of the Claims**

Applicant has amended claims 1-6, 10, 17 and 22-31, as set forth below in a complete listing of all of the claims in the application, with the status of each claim noted parenthetically in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### Listing of claims

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for the disinfection of air, comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m<sup>3</sup> of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m<sup>3</sup> of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and comprises

- (a) propylene glycol; and
- (b) one or more flavoring agents selected from the group consisting of tannins; and lactic acid.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises

- from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight of propylene glycol;
- from 0.01 to 25% by weight of ~~and optionally~~ tannin and
- from 0.01 to ~~70%~~ 30% by weight of lactic acid.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the one or more flavoring agents is ~~said antimicrobial composition further comprises benzyl alcohol and propylene glycol, tannins, and lactic acid.~~

Claim 4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ further comprises benzyl alcohol.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said antimicrobial composition further comprises ~~hydrocinnamic alcohol~~ at least 75% by weight propylene glycol, from 0.1 to 10% by weight benzyl alcohol, and at least 0.01% by weight of tannin and/or lactic acid.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4 1, wherein the one or more flavoring agents is ~~said antimicrobial composition further comprises~~ lactic acid.

Claim 7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises  
from 0.1 to 99% by weight, of benzyl alcohol;  
from 0 to 99.8% by weight of propylene glycol; and  
from 0.01 to 25% by weight of tannins; and optionally  
from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of lactic acid.

Claim 9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein said alcohol component of said antimicrobial composition comprises from 0.1 to 10% by weight of benzyl alcohol and from 90 to 99.9% by weight of propylene glycol.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition further comprises ~~additional~~ GRAS flavoring agents selected from (c) phenols, (d) esters, (e) terpenes, (f) acetals, (g) aldehydes, and (h) essential oils.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said antimicrobial composition contains from 0.001 to 25% by weight of said additional GRAS flavoring agents (c) to (h).

Claim 12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said additional GRAS flavoring agents are phenols (c) and/or essential oils (h).

Claim 13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial composition does not contain any derivatives of said GRAS flavoring agents.

Claim 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises from 0.1 to 20% by weight of benzyl alcohol and from 0.01 to 10% by weight of tannins.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the antimicrobial composition further comprises water and the water content of said antimicrobial composition is less than 35% by weight.

Claim 17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said composition further comprises emulsifiers, stabilizers, antioxidants, preservatives, solvents, and/or carrier materials.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said atomizing of said antimicrobial composition is effected by a two-fluid nozzle system, evaporation system or a bubbler installation for the air, or in a special design for packaging.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a concentration of said antimicrobial composition of from 0.01 to 0.1 ml per m<sup>3</sup> of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.01 to 0.1 ml per m<sup>3</sup> of air per hour.

Claims 20–21. (canceled)

Claim 22. (currently amended) An antimicrobial composition for the disinfection of air, that can be added to the air in a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m<sup>3</sup> of air per hour and be an effective disinfectant in a concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb air, wherein said composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and comprises

- (a) propylene glycol; and
- (b) one or more flavoring agents selected from tannins and lactic acid.

Claim 23. (currently amended) A method for the disinfection of air to reduce the concentration of germs selected from the group consisting of at least one of gram-positive bacteria, gram-negative bacteria, molds, spore-formers and viruses, said method comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m<sup>3</sup> of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m<sup>3</sup> of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and comprises

- (a) propylene glycol; and
- (b) one or more flavoring agents selected from  
tannins and lactic acid.

Claim 24. (currently amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises

- from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight, of propylene glycol;
- from 0.01 to 25% by weight, of tannins; and optionally
- from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of lactic acid.

Claim 25. (currently amended) A method for the disinfection of air to reduce the concentration of germs selected from the group consisting of at least one of ~~bacillus subtilis~~ bacillus subtilis, ~~pseudomona fluorescens~~ pseudomona fluorescens, ~~staphylococcus aureus~~ staphylococcus aureus, ~~aspergillus niger~~ aspergillus niger and ~~hepatitis-B~~ hepatitis B, said method comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m<sup>3</sup> of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m<sup>3</sup> of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and comprises

- (a) propylene glycol; and
- (b) one or more flavoring agents selected from tannins and lactic acid.

Claim 26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises

- from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight, of propylene glycol; and
- from 0.01 to 25% by weight, of tannins; and optionally
- from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of lactic acid.

Claim 27. (currently amended) A method for the disinfection of air to reduce the concentration of ~~bacillus anthracis~~ *bacillus anthracis*, said method, comprising the distributing or atomizing of an antimicrobial composition, wherein a concentration of the antimicrobial composition of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m<sup>3</sup> of air is adjusted by said distributing or atomizing of said antimicrobial composition, and/or exchanging air systems are adjusted to achieve a dosage of from 0.001 to 1 ml per m<sup>3</sup> of air per hour, and/or a permanent concentration of from 5 to 10 ppb of the antimicrobial composition is achieved, wherein said antimicrobial composition is free from ethanol and isopropanol and comprises

- (a) propylene glycol; and
- (b) one or more flavoring agents selected from tannins and lactic acid.

Claim 28. (currently amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises

- from 0.1 to 99.9% by weight, of propylene glycol; ~~and~~
- from 0.01 to 25% by weight, of tannins; and
- from 0.01 to 70% by weight, of lactic acid.

Claim 29. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~27~~ 25, wherein said antimicrobial composition further comprises: ~~benzyl alcohol and propylene glycol, tannins, and lactic acid.~~

Claim 30. (currently amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein the alcohol constituent of said antimicrobial composition ~~further~~ comprises hydrocinnamic alcohol at least 75% by weight propylene glycol, from 1% to 10% by weight benzyl alcohol, and at least 0.01% by weight of tannins and/or lactic acid.

Claim 31. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~27~~ 25, wherein said antimicrobial composition further comprises ~~at least one of orange, lemon grass or mixtures thereof~~ both tannins and lactic acid.